

# the chronicle

**WORLD FAMOUS  
VASE TO BE  
RECREATED**  
Page 3



**KARATE KID  
ROBERT GETS  
THE GOLD**  
Page 6



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## Driver killed as lorry hits M5 bridge



The burned and mangled lorry which hit a bridge at Junction 3 of the M5 on Tuesday morning

A lorry driver has died after his truck crashed into a bridge and burst into flames on the M5 near Halesowen.

The accident on the northbound carriageway caused the motorway to be shut in both directions between Junction 3 at Halesowen and Junction 4 at Bromsgrove. The southbound stretch was closed for almost 12 hours, while the northbound stretch remained closed for even longer.

The road closures caused delays of up to 40 minutes for motorists using a diversion, and there was heavy congestion on the surrounding roads during rush hour during the morning following the crash.

### Flames

Fire crews were called to the Junction 3 slip road at 1.50am on Tuesday and found a heavy goods lorry on fire by Carters Lane bridge.

Paramedics were unable to save the driver who was in the cab and he was confirmed dead by ambulance crews. At the time of going to press he had not yet been named.

Halesowen firefighter Mitchell

Poole, who was first to arrive at the crash scene, said: "When we got there the lorry had hit the bridge, causing some damage, so it has been closed along with the motorway."

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "When crews arrived they found a lorry that was fully ablaze. Unfortunately, there was nothing that could be done and the driver was confirmed dead at the scene."

"The crash and fire has left a large crack in the bridge support which has resulted in the extended closure of the motorway."

Highways Agency spokeswoman Jo Carroll said the motorway had to be closed while structural engineers assessed the damage to the bridge.

Queues of traffic stretched back around five miles from Junction 4 along the A491 to Pedmore this morning. There were also delays by Junction 3.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Joanne Hunt said police were investigating the cause of the crash.

## £4m in fines for watching TV illegally

More than £4 million worth of fines have been handed out to licence dodgers in the Black Country who have been caught watching television illegally since the start of the year, official figures have revealed.

A total of 4,200 people were caught by inspectors and issued with £1,000 fines across the region between January and June, a report from the TV Licensing body revealed. Sandwell was the worst area in the region for people not paying their TV licence, with 1,600 people caught. In Wolverhampton, 1,100 people were caught out. Meanwhile, 870 people were fined in Walsall and 660 in Dudley.

Regional spokesman for the West Midlands, Mark Whitehouse, said the organisation took a firm stance against fee dodgers.

"To be fair to those who pay, we have to be firm with those who try to get away without paying. We take TV licence evasion very seriously and we will not hesitate to prosecute if people continue to break the law," he said.

"We would always prefer people to buy a TV Licence than risk prosecution and give people every opportunity to pay."

### Payment

"However, we do understand some people may find it difficult to pay their licence fee in one go, which is why we offer numerous ways to spread the cost."

An advertising campaign was launching on the BBC this week to highlight these options, which include a weekly cash payment plan, a savings card and monthly direct debit scheme.

A breakdown of the Black Country figures shows that in West Bromwich 320 evaders were caught, along with 290 in Smethwick, 280 in Tipton, 280 in Oldbury, 260 in Wednesbury, 130 in Rowley Regis and 90 in Cradley Heath. Meanwhile in Dudley, 140 licence dodgers were caught in Stourbridge and 110 in Halesowen.

A colour TV licence costs £145 for a year, and is a legal requirement for anyone watching programmes on a TV, computer or other equipment. Anyone caught watching TV without a licence could face prosecution if the fines are not paid.

## Former court to be put on the market

The former Halesowen Magistrates Court building will be put up for sale in the near future.

The courthouse, in Laurel Lane, closed at the end of March as part of £41 million cost-cutting measures by the Ministry of Justice. Since then all court cases have been moved to Dudley Magistrates Court in The Inhedge. Bosses confirmed they have decided to sell the building.

A property agent was brought in earlier to guide the sale. Her Majesty's Courts Service spokesman Mark Cram said: "We expect the building to go on the market within the next week or two. Terms will be available to people on application."

As well as Halesowen, West Bromwich Magistrates Court and Kidderminster and Stourbridge county courts, which handle bankruptcy cases and civil matters, were also earmarked for closure.

The Kidderminster and Stourbridge courts will close in September and cases will be transferred to Kidderminster and Dudley magistrates courts respectively.

The four courts were among 93 magistrates courts and 49 county courts to be closed countrywide.

Dudley Council's community safety lead, Councillor Adrian Turner, has said he hoped the closure of the Halesowen court would go on to create greater efficiency at other nearby courts. Bosses have blamed high running costs for the situation with the annual bill for rent and rates totalling in the region of £637,000. Staff were transferred to Dudley Magistrates Court which has undergone work to accommodate the extra cases.

## Baseball bats and machetes used to force victims to pay up

# VIOLENT LEGACY OF LOAN SHARKS

LOAN sharks are turning to increasingly violent methods to force victims to pay up, West Midlands police are warning.

Kidnap, violence and intimidation are among tactics used by illegal money lenders to fleece their victims of what often amounts to tens of thousands of pounds more than originally borrowed.

Baseball bats and machetes are among the weapons seized by the National Illegal Money Lending team, based in Digbeth, Birmingham, in recent months.

The head of the team, Tony Quigley, warned: "Some of these people are formidable – they have reputations in the community where they operate and so people won't necessarily report them readily."

"It's a real power-based relationship. The loan shark can keep raising the amount the person owes to incredible amounts and there's nothing the victim can do except pay them, or report them. It can be extremely lucrative – one case we were involved with in Cheshire was against an illegal money lender who had made £4 million in just a few years, owned a country house and had all the trappings of being wealthy."

The National Illegal Money Lending team consists of 55 staff including investigators, police officers and community liaison offi-

cers, all based in Birmingham. The project, which has a budget of £5.2m for 2011, has managed to get £37m worth of illegal debt written off across the UK since it launched in 2004 – and last year it reclaimed £163,000 for victims in the West Midlands. But Mr Quigley said the team faced many challenges when bringing loan sharks to justice.

He said: "One of the main problems we face is that people don't discuss their finances – to come to us they have to admit not only that they borrowed from an illegal lender, which can make them feel foolish, but that they had trouble getting credit."

### Pressure

"Loan sharks are often also prominent in the community, and will treat a lot of people very well indeed. That means there is a network of people who think they are wonderful and generous, and only a minority who have been treated badly. This can make the social pressure not to report them very strong."

"Another problem is the threat of violence hanging over the heads of those who do not or cannot pay up or who report their criminal activities."

"Our first priority has to be the protection of the victim. Loan sharks are very nasty, both in the way they operate and in getting their money back," he said. "Victims are often too intimidated to stand up against their lender."



Cash books, baseball bats and machetes were among the items seized during raids

He said while the recession has meant more people finding themselves in difficult financial positions, and so turning to illegal lenders, the problem was not restricted to any particular area. In the Black Country, Sarah-Jane Dixon, aged 34, of Cannock Road, Wednesfield, is due to stand trial in September after denying blackmail and possessing criminal property. She admitted to running an illegal money lending business from her home over a seven-year period.

In October 2008, Howard Johnson, 40, of Walsall, was jailed for three years after pleading guilty to loan shark activity. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard at the time that Johnson had been loaning money to an unnamed victim for more than 10 years. In one case, he had increased the £800 loaned to £5,600 in just 12 months.

When the victim told him he was having trouble finding the cash, Johnson threatened to kill him in front of his children.

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## thechronicle

## Luke's designs praised

A GRAPHIC design student from Sedgley who created a range of architecture for animals and visitors at Dudley Zoo has been praised for his unique designs.

Halesowen College student, Luke Reader, aged 18, has ended his two-year, level three national diploma course on a high after gaining a distinction in his final project.

Julia Lockett, marketing manager at the zoo, attended the student's end of year show and congratulated Luke for his efforts.

The former Dormston School pupil, who is set to go to university in September, said: "I was really pleased with my work, I wanted to bring a touch of glamour and fun to the zoo."

Lecturer Gillian Dunkerley said: "The final project is treated like a real life job for students, they have to work independently and show us everything they have learnt about. Luke produced some fantastic work."

Councillor Ann Shackleton, Deputy Mayor of Sandwell, also attended the event and was impressed Luke had chosen a local attraction as his subject, describing his work as "truly inspirational."

## Bus driver sought

Kinver's voluntary bus operator, which provides a lifeline to young and elderly people in the village, is making an urgent appeal for a new driver.

One of Kinver Community Bus's drivers is returning to full-time work and a replacement is needed. Anyone interested should call Margaret on 01384 872073.

# Heating bills increase fuels mother's anger

By Sarah Hazelwood

A CONCERNED mother from Halesowen whose family is one of millions suffering the results of fuel poverty has hit out at the lack of support, calling the situation appalling.

Danielle Chater, of Bassage Close, has lived in the council property with her partner and three children for three years. Since moving in she has campaigned tirelessly for the costly storage heaters to be replaced by central heating.

Earlier this year Danielle received a three month electricity bill putting her in more than £1,300 debt, leading her to turn to Halesowen MP James Morris for help.

The latest figures, from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, have shown she is among an estimated 4.1million households experiencing fuel poverty.

Danielle said: "I am in a real mess and really thought if the MP saw this he would have been able to help but it appears no-one can do anything."

"My heating is not sufficient because I physically can't afford to run it and it is causing my children to suffer unnecessarily - I feel like I am banging my head against a brick wall."

## Struggle

The latest data on the struggle people are facing over fuel bills comes just days after British Gas announced another price hike, which will see gas and electricity bills jump by more than 15 per cent.

Last month, Scottish Power announced a similar rise in bills and the rest of the "big six" suppliers are expected to follow suit in coming weeks.

But Climate Change Minister Greg Barker said: "I know rising energy prices are hitting households hard and these new figures show the old policies to help the most vulnerable were not working. "We are pushing for stronger competition to keep price rises as low as possible and in the longer term, we'll be helping people use less energy with the Green Deal."

Housing chief Councillor Adrian Turner, said Dudley council work in partnership with Energy Extra which helps tenants reduce their bills. "The rise in the cost of gas and electric is an increasing concern for many residents," he said.

Utility companies have introduced a social tariff for low income families to assist tenants to maximise the effectiveness of their heating system.

"If Ms Chater contacts her housing manager, we can arrange for Energy Extra to pay her another visit to look at ways to bring her energy bills down."

"Aside from this Ms Chater's individual case is being dealt with therefore we are unable to comment further on this at this stage."

A spokeswoman for James Morris said: "We have written back to Ms Chater and sent her the response which we received from the council outlining their position in this matter however, we cannot comment any further on this individual case."

## Pupils on right track at sports day

Sporty pupils at a Black Country primary school were put through their paces at a day of activities organised by students at a nearby school.

Around 30 children at Hasbury C of E Primary School, in Hagley Road, Halesowen, took part in the sports festival organised by youngsters at Windsor High School.

Sports-themed events were set up in the school's playground and Windsor students provided the younger pupils with help and advice. There is a sports partnership between the two schools which has been ongoing for some time.

Hasbury School spokesman Jane Lees said: "The children have really enjoyed these activities which were led by pupils from Windsor High School. It has been a wonderful event and all of the pupils have had a great time," she said.



Sporty young pupils, front Carys Lowe and Benjamin Jordan, back, Chloe Smith, Adam Ahemd, Isa Babri and Yusuf Alshimeri, centre Natalie Holford and Callan Taylor

## Date set for home closure

A care home in Halesowen will close in January as part of a council review of social services.

Dozens of residents will be uprooted and rehomed over the next six months as Shenhstone residential care home in Kent Street closes.

Council bosses said that they were hoping to redeploy most of the 51 members of staff, while six workers at the home have already taken voluntary redundancy.

The future of the council's two remaining long-stay residential homes - New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford, and Russells Court, Dudley - still hangs in the balance with reviews planned over the next two years.

Cabinet member for adult and community services, Councillor Lesley Faulkner, said that the changes were part of work to move away from the traditional residential care homes.

The closure of one of Dudley's last remaining council-run residential homes was heralded as a "bad omen" for social care in the borough. Shenhstone residential care home close as part of a council review into social care.

Councillor Lesley Faulkner insisted the decision was part of an ongoing review into care services in the borough and was unconnected to the £10 million the council has to save from its adult social care department.

The authority is ploughing ahead with plans for five extra care housing schemes which will provide around 600 flats for older people. Work has already been completed at a £16m scheme in Russells Hall, which will have 132 apartments, while an £8m project in Cosely is due to open this year.

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## Historic vase to be recreated

A world famous glass vase, which dates back to Roman times will be recreated in Stourbridge as part of a new project.

The Portland Vase, which was discovered in the late 16th century, is known around the globe for its intricate designs. Now Ruskin Glass Centre craftsmen have launched the Stourbridge Twenty Twelve Portland Vase project to make a replica of the vase.

The project has already gained the support of the British Museum and all of the work will be carried on site at Ruskin Glass Centre for visi-

tors to witness. The glass used will be sourced from Stourbridge-based Plowden & Thomson. The blank cameo vase will be blown by expert glass maker Richard Golding before the piece is engraved over subsequent months by Terri Colledge.

Centre manager Leigh White said: "The aim is to complete the piece to coincide with the International Festival of Glass in August 2012."

People will be able to keep up-to-date on the project by logging on to the website [www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk](http://www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk)



Portland Vase project co-ordinator Ian Dury with glass artist and engraver Terri-Louise Colledge

# Hollywood calls for metal coating firm

A leading Dudley metalworks which has already been used by Hollywood has signed a deal with a major British films studio.

Metal-spraying firm Metallisation has signed a deal with Pinewood Studios, where films such as Pirates of the Caribbean and Harry Potter have been filmed.

So far the firm's film credits include completed a range of scenery used in the epic remake of Clash of the Titans, which starred Liam Neeson as Zeus and Ralph Fiennes as Hades. In a scene where the gods walk



Steve Barker, Rob Hill and Terry Lester from Metallisation in Dudley

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across a map of the world, Metallisation was responsible for coating it.

"It is very exciting for our staff to know that what they are working on could have a big star strolling across it in a couple of months," said finance director Rob Hill, aged 55, who lives in Telford.

Accounts manager Steve Atkiss said the firm had become involved with Pinewood as it is the only company in the UK which develops, manufactures and supplies a range of equipment which sprays liquid metal.

### Polysterene

He said studio bosses seized on the idea as a way of making their props and sets - which are often created from polystyrene - more durable.

In Clash of the Titans, the map of the world formed the centrepiece of the council chamber where the gods resided, using it to plan the fate of the mortals.

They are often seen walking across it and fighting over what happens on Earth, and so it had to be strong enough to support the constant weight of the actors as well as heavy

film equipment. Despite mixed reviews, the film proved a hit with cinema-goers and raked in a massive \$400m at the box office.

Metallisation was also involved in Dubai's iconic Burj Al Arab hotel, which at 321m high is the fourth tallest hotel in the world.

The firm, which has been operating from its site in Peartree Lane since 1922, was called upon to protect the outside of the structure against high temperatures and the corrosive effect of sand and sea.

Mr Hill said the Pinewood deal was part of a plan to plough hundreds of thousands of pounds into expanding business abroad.

The firm invested £300,000 into exploring new markets last year and plans at least another £100,000 by the end of this year.

He said he was now looking to employ at least three additional engineers to add to the firm's 35-strong team. "In looking to develop our markets, we have found that we've made increasing amounts to developing countries such as India."

"We started out as providing services to Black Country firms, but as the economy started to droop we have managed to prosper by expanding our horizons."

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## Leaders warning of town traffic chaos

dudleychons@expressandstar.co.uk

Emergency measures are being drawn up as council leaders warn of traffic chaos when three main roads through Stourbridge town centre close for the demolition of the Bell Street multi-storey.

The whole of New Street, a footpath along Crown Lane and part of Bath Road – the ring road – will be closed to motorists as developers Tesco knock the crumbling car park and ageing Crown Centre and build a £50 million new shopping centre.

Council bosses today admitted the project, which will take several months, was going to be a "nightmare" for visitors to the town centre.

Work on the development is due to begin in January and completed in time to open for Christmas 2012, though discussions between the council and Tesco were ongoing today to establish the exact date.

New Street will remain closed while construction work takes place, and will reopen as a tunnel travelling beneath the front of the Tesco store is complete.

### Minimise

Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Patrick Harley revealed the demolition of the multi-storey would be carried out on a Sunday, and only last a day, to minimise impact on shoppers and motorists.

He said one of the major issues facing traffic officers was how motorists coming through the one-way system along High Street and Market Street, and from the Ryemarket multi-storey nearby, would leave when their normal route along New Street has been blocked.

Currently, access to the ring road from the far end of Market Street is blocked by bollards and the subway, while the opposite ends of Bell Street and Talbot Street lead to the back of the Ryemarket.

Potential solutions include installing a temporary exit from Market Street, or even redirecting traffic through the Ryemarket car park.

## Young VIPs open new store



Manager Richard Jones with Netherbrook Primary pupils at the new Asda

Schoolchildren were given the honour of cutting the ribbon at a revamped Black Country supermarket.

Asda has converted the former Netto in Netherton into one of its branches after buying out the firm. Youngsters from Netherbrook Primary School in Chester Road, Netherton, were invited to officially open the new store last week. Store manager Richard Jones said: "It was lovely we were able to share the opening of our new store with some of

the local pupils from Netherbrook. They really seemed to enjoy themselves, especially the VIP tour."

The supermarket in Cradley Road has been closed for two weeks while the £500,000 refit has taken place.

Existing Netto staff have been taken on by Asda and nine new jobs have been created.

The supermarket will join the 38 Netto stores, including one in New Road, Kidderminster, which have already been converted since May 2011 to the new format.

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## Circus time at glass museum



Circus fun for education officer Kate Figgitt at Broadfield House Glass Museum

Visitors will be rolling up for a circus themed activity trail at Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum.

Families will be able to hunt for circus stars around the attraction in Compton Drive run until September 4.

The free trail coincides with the summer reading challenge being held at libraries around Dudley borough. Children are encouraged to read six books as part of the scheme, which launches on Saturday and runs until September 11. Children who complete the challenge will be awarded cer-

tificates and medals and will be in with a chance to win prizes such as free passes to tourist attractions in the region. It is free to enter and registration forms are available at all libraries in Dudley.

Circus themed activities will also be taking place at libraries throughout the summer. Councillor Adrian Turner said: "The challenge encourages children to find enjoyment in reading as well as offering an opportunity to participate in fun and free activities at their local libraries during the summer holidays."

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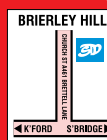
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## thechronicle

# 300 drain covers are stolen

Around 300 drain covers have been stolen by metal thieves in the Midlands in little more than a year, endangering lives and causing thousands of pounds of damage, according to new figures.

Police have warned the spate of thefts by crooks looking to cash in on the rising price of scrap metal was posing a serious hazard as people risk falling down open manholes or crashing their cars as they drive over the gaping holes left in roads.

The figures come after electricians discovered injured German Shepherd Molly lying motionless at the bottom of an open manhole in Walsall after

thieves ripped away the cover in December.

West Mercia Police spokesman Toby Shergold blamed the steady rise of international metal prices for the ongoing problem.

"The theft of drain covers puts the public at risk because there is the potential for someone to unwittingly fall into an uncovered drain and hurt themselves, or for serious damage to be done to a car if it drove over one," he said. "It also causes a major expense for local authorities to replace them." Sandwell and Dudley were revealed to be hotspots for the crime, with 33 covers being stolen in

Sandwell and 29 in Dudley last year.

A total of 26 were taken from Walsall streets, including one at the corner of Profit Street and Cannon Street North, Walsall, Molly was found a week after going missing.

Just two were taken in Wolverhampton and 41 from Birmingham, while West Mercia Police received 57 reports in the same time period, including nine in North Worcestershire and Kidderminster.

Staffordshire Police reported 92 drain covers stolen between April last year and March this year, including four from Cannock, four from South Staffordshire and two from Lichfield.

## College to get a £1m makeover

A £1 million project to revamp the reception and library at Stourbridge College's main campus has been announced, with work due to start in months.

Work will get under way at the centre in Hagley Road, during the next academic year, principal Lynette Cutting said, as another scheme nears its end.

A £1million scheme to create a new fitness suite and computer area, called the iZone, for students, is due to be completed in September.

Mrs Cutting said: "We want to make the communal facilities more modern. The iZone will be where students can have laptops in a more informal area or chat to friends. Visitors can also sit there when they come to the college for meetings or events."

Meanwhile work on the £12m new creative industries campus in Brierley Hill is nearing completion.

The eye-catching centre in Venture Way will open in September and offer arts and digital-based courses to 1,000 students.

## Karate kid gets gold



**Karate star Robert Hinton, aged 16, of Kingswinford**

A karate-kicking teenager from Dudley struck gold at his first competition. Robert Hinton, 16, won a gold medal at the Karate World Cup at Birmingham NIA.

He has been going to karate classes at Kingswinford Youth Club for four years. Robert, of Summercourt Square, Kingswinford, said: "It was a great feeling to win."

## Feelings are mixed over club

Residents in Dudley have mixed feelings over a revamp for a derelict social club which has stood empty for more than a year.

While they are happy the club will be brought back to life they are also concerned that Brierley Hill Labour Club could be turned into a nightclub with late opening hours.

The Pearson Street site is set for a new lease of life after it was sold to a mystery buyer. There were fears it would be empty for years after it closed down in June last year.

But it has been sold for £215,000 – and the private owner has plans to reopen it as a licensed venue.

Resident Jim Charles, aged 68, of Talbot Street, said: "It has become an eyesore so I am glad it will be used again."

"But now we have just got to hope it doesn't become a nightclub-type bar causing a nuisance."

The club, which was founded in the 1930s, went into administration after it started losing thousands of pounds.



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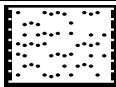
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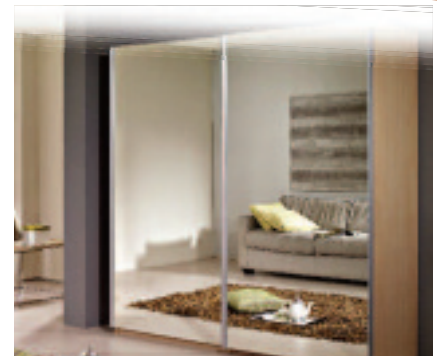
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## thechronicle

### Staff step up to the mark in walk challenge

Staff at a Merry Hill store put their best feet forward and walked 10 miles to their branch in Kidderminster to raise money for the NSPCC.

It was part of a challenge by 14 Matalan stores in an area from Brierley Hill, through Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and across Wales.

The aim was to raise a total of £50,000 for the children's charity.

Each of the branches is joining in to travel a combined total of 300 miles in a relay between stores, using a means of transport that costs no money. The Merry Hill staff walked into Stourbridge, through Mary Stevens Park and up Norton Road, stopping at the Crown and Park Gate pubs, as well as Broadwaters Park in Kidderminster, for brief breaks.

The branch has also held theme days, including a pyjama party, face painting and "dressing up", as well as a raffle.

Jan Chapman, Merry Hill store manager, said: "We did the first leg of the challenge and then our colleagues in Kidderminster were travelling on to Malvern."

"Another store started from Aberystwyth and the two chains will meet up in Cardiff on Saturday."

"Some of the branches are about 40 miles apart so they



Merry Hill's Matalan staff take a break in Broadwaters

will cycle or use some other free means of transport – but we were able to walk," she added.

The Merry Hill team hopes to raise more than £2,000 in its share of the challenge.

## Luke faces 12-month delay in Greek trial

A Dudley man who is unable to leave Greece because he is awaiting trial over the killing of his girlfriend has been told it will be at least another year before his case comes before the court.

Bailed suspect Luke Walker has been told it will be at least another 12 months before he stands trial over the death of his long-term girlfriend. Judges had previously ruled that Walker, aged 23, of Brierley Hill, would stand trial before the end of the

[dudleychron@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:dudleychron@expressandstar.co.uk)

year, but his family today revealed the dates had been postponed in a "devastating" turnaround by legal officers in Athens.

The decision means Walker will not have been home to the Black Country for more than two and a half years as bail restrictions mean he cannot leave Greek soil.

His father Patrick, who runs Walkers Electrics, said the news had left the family distraught.

### Gutting

"It was a real killer blow – to be told that when we thought we were in the final few months of waiting was just gutting," he said.

"And he added that their solicitor was also still waiting to hear whether legal officials in Athens would stick with the current charge against Luke of causing death by actual bodily harm, or upgrade it to murder."

The charge was downgraded when appeal judges decided to grant

Walker bail in October, five months after being arrested. Mr Walker was able to visit his son for the first time last week after suffering a heart attack earlier this year.

He said Luke had managed to get a job in a hotel and was now helping to pay for his accommodation in Crete as the cost of the legal battle creeps above £60,000.

His girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman, aged 20, from Castleford, Yorkshire, died in intensive care in May last year after being admitted to hospital suffering from abdominal pain.

Greek police stated they believed Walker had attacked her in a fit of "jealous rage", but he claims she was injured on a girl's night out the week before.

A post mortem examination found she had suffered one injury to the abdomen, not the multiple injuries initially claimed by doctors, and died of internal bleeding.

The couple had been staying in the resort of Malia while looking for summer work.

### College volunteers rewarded

Three students from Halesowen College have won sports leadership awards after they collectively clocked up 600 hours of volunteering their skills to others.

Rachael Dawes, Andrew Moorby and Daryl Hart, all aged 18, were put forward in the Dudley School Sports Partnership Awards for their commitment to sport and helping others.

Rachael, of Halesowen, has completed nearly 200 hours of volunteering in and around the community helping out with various sports.

The ex-pupil at Crestwood School, Kingswinford, is studying the Level Two Diploma in Sport at the college.

Andrew, of Sedgley has completed more than 200 hours of volunteering and helping out with various sports and clubs and Daryl, of Norton, Stourbridge, has also clocked up more than 100 hours working with the sports partnership.

They are both in their second year of a level three extended diploma in sport.

### Fired up for cycling



Brierley Hill firefighters Dave Birch, Tim Nicholls, Malcolm Bourne, Dave Holloway, Brian Morris, Craig Smith, Nick Bailey and Dan Evans call in at Willenhall Fire Station during their 170-mile fundraising cycle challenge

Firefighters got on their bikes for a 170-mile cycling challenge to raise cash for a Black Country youngsters recovering from major heart surgery.

Five members of Brierley Hill Fire Station's Green Watch saddled up to embark on the gruelling circuit taking them to every fire station in the region. It was to bring in funds for Halesowen youngster Joshua Baker, aged five, who has a congenital heart problem and has undergone a series of major operations.

It is hoped the money will be used to treat the youngster and his family to a holiday.

### Festival to showcase the mature

A month-long festival focussing on the opportunities available for older people is looking for groups to take part and organise events.

Age UK Dudley, Dudley Council and Dudley Forum for Older People have teamed up again for UK older people's day on October 1.

They now want people in the borough to organise events throughout the month.

Last year more than 50 were organised across the borough in one week including coffee mornings, walks, cycle rides, reminiscence and information sessions.

Age UK Dudley chief officer Sally Huband said: "There is so much going on across the borough every week."

Anyone who is interested in taking part will need to complete an event organiser form and these are available by calling Age UK Dudley on 01384 354508.

The completed forms need to be returned no later than July 29.

## 1960s stars to play at festival

The line-up for this year's Bewdley Festival has been revealed – featuring TV presenters, comedians and 1960s pop stars.

The 24th annual event runs at venues across the town for a week in October. Adam Henson, a regular on BBC One's Countryfile, takes to the stage at the Ramada Hotel on October 13 to talk about his experiences on the show and his farm in the Cotswolds.

Music will be provided by The Manfreds, featuring both lead singers from the 1960s' band, Manfred Mann. The group will perform their greatest hits, such as Do Wah Diddy Diddy and The Mighty Quinn, at the hotel

on October 8. Bafta-nominated comedian Mark Steel will perform a stand-up set based on Bewdley during his show on October 14.

The show, which he has toured across the country, looks at the quirky details of each town.

### Question

Author, broadcaster and former MP Gyles Brandreth will tell anecdotes before a question and answer session on October 11.

Among the drama productions at the festival is a play starring Penella Fielding, who appeared in the Carry On series and The Avengers.

The play on October 9, called

Dearest Nancy, Darling Evelyn, tells the story of authors Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh's friendship in the 1930s.

Other musical entertainment will be provided by Alan Simpson, former keyboard player of 1960s rockers The Animals, and Martin Simpson, who has twice won Musician of the Year at the BBC Folk Awards.

And British composer Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, known for film scores to Four Weddings and a Funeral and Murder on the Orient Express, will perform.

Art lectures and exhibitions will run throughout the October 7 to 16 event.



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### thechronicle

## Midland beauties miss out on top prize

Midland beauties lost out to a 22-year-old blonde from London in the battle to become Miss England.

A host of glamorous girls descended on Birmingham Hilton Metropole to compete in the glittering final of the 2011 competition which was won by Miss Every Model Alize Lily Mounter.

She is the current holder of Miss Every Model which is a beauty pageant run by Every Model magazine.

Among those bidding for the title was Miss Birmingham Natalie Cutler, aged 21 from Rowley Regis, who was in the final five and Miss Black Country Roshni Pink, aged 21 from Claregate, Wolverhampton. Also competing was Miss Staffordshire, Natalie James, aged 22, from Handsacre. The 58 girls from across the country had already endured fierce competition in the heats and a semi-final stage to make it to the grand final.

The evening kicked off with the girls on the catwalk in matching white and red Made in England dresses by Karen



Miss Birmingham, Natalie Cutler from Rowley Regis



The winner - Miss Every Model, Alize Mounter



Miss Black Country, Roshni Pink from Wolverhampton

Karmody. The ladies who were all preened to perfection held glittering masks with feathers to cover their faces, giving the audience just a glimpse of their glamorous hair and make-up and model smiles. The audience and the judges were then introduced to each of the finalists in their own choice of evening wear.

Miss Cutler was delighted to be chosen as a final five contestant and the former Heathfields School pupil, found herself within touching distance of the coveted crown.

Speaking after the contest Miss Cutler said: "I am incredibly pleased to have got so far. It was an absolutely wonderful and fun experience."

## Plans for bar spark worries over noise

Plans for a late-night bar opposite a church have caused outcry among residents who fear it will cause noise and disruption.

The bar, planned for the old Barclays Bank in Lye High Street, would be open until 3am if Dudley Council licensing chiefs give applicant Ghulam Nabi Namdar's plans the go-ahead.

Mr Namdar says there will be dancing and live music at the venue, which is just yards from a quiet residential street and opposite Bethel Chapel.

But local councillors and residents have vowed to fight the plans saying

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk they are "totally unsuitable". They will pack into a Dudley Council meeting next week where a decision will be made on the plans.

There are houses on Church Road, a quiet one-way street just yards from the back of the premises, including some bungalows occupied by elderly people.

### Dread

Resident Robert Shipley, aged 65, called it a "terrible idea".

The retired gardener, who lives alone, added: "I dread to think what noise we will hear in the early hours. If this goes ahead I would consider moving." The building has been

empty for about four years. An application has been made to sell alcohol there and play "recorded music" until 3am. Live music would also be held until midnight.

Councillor Adrian Turner, who represents Lye and Stourbridge North, said: "I've been inundated with complaints from residents who are worried about what will happen."

"People will likely spill out of this place at 3am and disturb residents." Fellow ward councillor Pete Lowe said there were also concerns that the street was becoming "less about traders and more about nightlife".

Mr Namdar declined to comment until after a decision is made at the council's licensing sub-committee on Tuesday.



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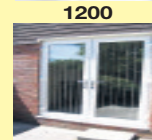


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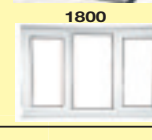
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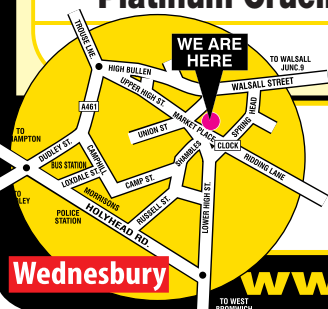
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thechronicle

## 300 drain covers are stolen

Around 300 drain covers have been stolen by metal thieves in the Midlands in little more than a year, endangering lives and causing thousands of pounds of damage, according to new figures.

Police have warned the spate of thefts by crooks looking to cash in on the rising price of scrap metal was posing a serious hazard as people risk falling down open manholes or crashing their cars as they drive over the gaping holes left in roads.

The figures came after electricians discovered a German Shepherd dog lying motionless at the bottom of an open manhole in Walsall after

thieves ripped away the cover in December.

West Mercia Police spokesman Toby Shergold blamed the steady rise of international metal prices for the ongoing problem.

"The theft of drain covers puts the public at risk because there is the potential for someone to unwittingly fall into an uncovered drain and hurt themselves, or for serious damage to be done to a car if it drove over one," he said. "It also causes a major expense for local authorities to replace them." Sandwell and Dudley were revealed to be hotspots for the crime, with 33 covers being stolen in

Sandwell and 29 in Dudley last year.

A total of 26 were taken from Walsall streets, including one at the corner of Profit Street and Cannon Street North, Walsall, Molly was found a week after going missing.

Just two were taken in Wolverhampton and 41 from Birmingham, while West Mercia Police received 57 reports in the same time period, including nine in North Worcestershire and Kidderminster.

Staffordshire Police reported 92 drain covers stolen between April last year and March this year, including four from Cannock, four from South Staffordshire and two from Lichfield.

## Truancy cut called absolute nonsense

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Critics have labelled plans to axe 11 truancy officer jobs as "absolute nonsense" and accused Dudley Council of putting education at risk by forcing teachers to take on extra responsibilities.

The authority has cut the team of 20 down to just nine, who will focus exclusively on prosecuting parents of children who are persistently absent instead of making personal visits to schools and homes to help solve the problem. It is claimed this will impose extra work on teachers.

Education boss Councillor Liz Walker insists the cuts are necessary and schools in need of support will be able to apply for funding.

But Councillor Tim Crumpton, chairman of the select committee on children's services, today accused the council of piling extra pressure on teachers.

### Impact

"You're taking away frontline services, by taking teachers away from teaching and making them work on truancy problems, and that will have a negative impact on education," he said.

"All these skills have just been thrown away."

"Teachers do not have the time and may not have the skills required to carry out the one-on-one chats or home visits that these truancy officers have done. We were making quite a lot of progress on truancy problems and this puts that at risk."

Headteacher Graham Lloyd has criticised the move, saying the loss of funding for the truancy worker who dealt with pupils at Holly Hall Maths and Computing College was one of the reasons the school opted to become an academy.

"They provide an invaluable service and have done wonderful work here at Holly Hall," he said.

"Losing them because of funding cuts just seemed unacceptable. I wanted more control over the school's budget so we could decide for ourselves what investments are best for our school."

Holly Hall college will open its doors as an academy in September.

## Stage set for tea success



Mark Pincher has opened the Crystal Tea Rooms at The RedHouse Glass Cone with cousin Angie Stanton and mother Ellen Stanton

A tearoom is offering visitors the chance to step back to the Victorian era at a Midland attraction.

Crystal Tearooms, which sits in the shadow of Wordsley's historic Red House Glass Cone, has period furniture, traditional china cups and authentic costumes. It is the brainchild of former West End actor and singer Mark Pincher, who is

running the cafe with his mother Ellen Stanton and cousin Angie Stanton. Mark, aged 41, of Ocker Hill Road, Tipton, who has appeared in Miss Saigon and Elvis the Musical, is the tearoom's very own singing waiter. "I enjoyed my time in the West End but I've always wanted to have a family business. It is a dream come true," he said.

## Outdoor adventure at school

A world of tall trees, camp fires and outdoor adventure is being created at a Dudley primary school.

Maidensbridge Primary School, Wall Heath is developing a Forest Schools area after being handed a grant of £4,000 from Dudley Council's Brierley Hill area committee.

The school has developed part of its playing fields to create the area which gives children the chance to climb trees, build platforms and ladders, make fires and learn about the changing seasons and the natural world.

The area will also be used for lessons and over the next 18 months, the school is aiming to make Forest School sessions available to local community groups both within the working school week and during out of hours.

The school originally applied for a grant of £2,930 but councillors were so impressed by the project the sum was finally increased to £4,000 to give the project an extra boost.

## Connor's 100pc record



Connor Bridgwood with his award at Wallbrook Primary

Super healthy Connor Bridgwood has clocked up a 100 per cent attendance record - for all seven years of his school life. The Coseley youngster, aged 11, was described as a super role model pupil by the acting headteacher of Wallbrook Primary School, Coseley.

## Chance to show skills at festival

Film-makers, entrepreneurs and radio stars can show off their skills in workshops, free shows and exhibitions at Kidderminster Arts Festival next month.

The town centre festival, will run between August 13 and 27 and offers visitors the chance to explore their creative side.

Blossoming business brains can enter a Dragon's Den-style competition to get funding and support for new ideas, with winners being announced during the two-week event. Entries must be submitted by July 29.

Meanwhile, film-makers can submit a 20-minute film to the Filmaddict contest for the chance to see work shown at Kidderminster Library Gallery on August 22.

On August 17, Kidderminster Town Hall will be transformed into a recording studio for youngsters to test their skills on the airwaves.

Anyone who wants more information on times and prices at the festival can visit: [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/KAF](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/KAF)





One of the museum's most popular attractions is its canal trips. The surroundings are preserved in a time long ago



A great day out is yours to be had at the Black Country Living Museum, situated near Dudley zoological Gardens

# History comes to life at the living museum

During its 36 year history, the Black Country Living Museum has established itself as the region's number one venue for local history and culture.

The museum was established in 1975 and opened in 1978 and is held in trust for the benefit of the public.

It comprises notable buildings from across the four Black Country boroughs of Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley, many of which were dismantled brick by brick before being rebuilt at the museum.

It has grown in size and scope, having assumed responsibility for collections made by Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and having taken over the buildings and

collections of the Lock Museum, in Willenhall, in 2003. The museum covers 26 acres and comprises rebuilt historic buildings in the shadow of Dudley Castle. The land was partially reclaimed from a former railway goods yard and disused lime kilns and former coal pits, though there have been further additions.

A spokesman for the museum said: "The story of the Black Country is distinctive because of the scale, drama, intensity and multiplicity of the industrial might that was unleashed here.

## Identity

"Lying in the long shadow of Britain's second city, Birmingham, the Black Country has, through its manufactures and its people established its own very particular identity. The industrial landscape was entirely new at the time and the

scene - 'black by day and red by night' - horrified and fascinated contemporaries.

"Our mission at the Museum is 'to engage hearts and minds through the best use of our collections to inspire the widest possible audience about the story of the Black Country - the world's first industrial landscape'."

The museum recreates life as it might have been during the 19th and early 20th century thanks to a group of volunteers, who populate houses and shops.

It has managed to preserve a nucleus of Black Country industrial buildings, bridges and street furnishings and there are also extensive collections of equipment, products and other facets of everyday life, including retail businesses, community life objects and domestic furnishings. In all there are 61,000 items in the museum's collections.

Among the most impressive elements of its collection are historic buildings, including a backyard chainshop, brass foundry, cast iron houses, locksmith's house, nailshop, pitt's cott and trap shop.

The backyard chainshop was originally situated at Clarendon Street, in Cradley Heath, and features hearth and bellows for men and women. The brass foundry was also known as a tub shop and was built in Shaw Street, Walsall, in 1869. It had space for two casters with a barrelling and polishing room next door.

Molten brass was poured into moulds and the methods are recreated to this day. The cast iron houses, meanwhile, were built in Dudley in 1925 and were constructed from 600 panels of cast iron, bolted together and lined with asbestos. Only four were every made because they proved so costly.



Many of the costumed characters have an interesting tale to tell

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# More council workers accept new wage deals

Nearly 50 more workers at Dudley Council have now accepted new wage offers to settle a long-running pay row.

The authority has already settled with 1,937 people at a cost of £9.4 million. Another 1,300 offers worth more than £10.4m were made to workers at the end of last year. Around 600 of that round of offers have now been accepted.

Figures also show that the cost of the offers so far accepted in this round is more than £5.2m.

It has also emerged that two "collective" cases, involving 950 workers which are being consid-

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ered at an employment tribunal, have a "key hearing" pencilled in for later this year.

Council bosses have urged people to think carefully about the offers being made, and public sector union Unison has been monitoring the situation.

## Advice

Union solicitors have issued advice to people on a case-by-case basis over whether to accept offers.

Councillor Tim Wright, Dudley Council deputy leader with responsibility for human resources, law and governance, said: "Since the last update in April another 45 set-

tlement offers have been accepted. There is a key hearing in the employment tribunal regarding the council's cases during September."

But he added: "However, it is likely that this will be a first step and other details will need to be sorted next year."

Councils are attempting to deal with the issue of equal pay, which was demanded by the Labour Government 13 years ago.

Neighbouring Wolverhampton City Council has recently set a target of a year in which to resolve an equal pay dispute involving around 350 women workers.

Tribunals are also due to be held to resolve the situation in Wolverhampton after claims were lodged by 43 dinner ladies.

76 learning support workers, 142 people in social care, 14 in leisure, four cleaners, six caterers, 34 admin staff and 40 women in "journey assistant" roles.

## Rare butterflies are back in the forest

Endangered butterflies are re-appearing at a Midland beauty spot after a new scheme was launched.

Volunteers have been working with the Forestry Commission to help save the species at the Wyre Forest.

The pearl-bordered fritillary has been the most seen butterfly, and the grizzled skipper butterfly, not seen for 20 years, has also staged a comeback.

## Donations swamp fundraisers

Fundraisers from Dudley are preparing to get out their knitting needles after being swamped with donations of wool following and appeal in the local press.

Cathy Glear, from Netherton, her sister, Yvonne Smart, and brother-in-law David Smart, of Kingswinford, recently launched an appeal for wool to knit garments which they want to sell at Dudley's Russell's Hall Hospital to raise money for Midlands Air Ambulance.

They have had more than 40 donations of wool and other items to sell on their stall, which has raised around £20,000 over three years.

Cathy, a 57-year-old foster mum of Netherton, said: "We are delighted with the response."

"We would like to thank everyone who responded to our appeal."



Fundraisers David and Yvonne Smart and Cathy Glear

## Heating firm snapped up in £18m deal

Brierley Hill heating business AmbiRad has been bought by an American group in an £18 million deal, it has been revealed.

AmbiRad employs around 270 people and has annual sales of more than £30 million for its energy efficient heating systems.

It has been bought by Thomas & Betts, a £1.2 billion electrical equipment manufacturer based in Memphis, Tennessee.

Chris Yates, managing director of the Brierley Hill firm, said: "We see the acquisition of the AmbiRad Group by Thomas & Betts as an incredible opportunity heralding an exciting new era for the group."

"The board, senior management team and staff will remain the same allowing us to continue what has been a massive success story for the company since we first opened in 1979."

"The acquisition also means that we can now look forward to further developing our brands on a global level but most importantly we shall continue to ensure that our number one priority will be to provide the best possible service and products for our customers."

AmbiRad and Thomas & Betts have previously worked together for more than 20 years.

Thomas & Betts' chief financial officer, William Weaver, said the US company expected the takeover to add £12 million to its sales figures during this year.

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- Rome & Capri with a stay at the charming spa resort of Fulgigi

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**Disney Hotel Upgrades available - please ask for details**

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## Europe by Super Coach

#### Italian Riviera Super Saver

Escape to Diano Marina on the beautiful Italian Riviera of Flowers. The town is in a position sheltered by hills and features a sandy beach and selection of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. The 3\* Hotel Nettuno is set in a quiet location. Features include a restaurant/lounge area and frequent entertainment.

- Great value optional excursions:
- Monaco & Monte Carlo - £19.95 pp
- Riviera of Flowers and Porto Fino - £19.95 pp
- Half day visit to San Remo - £9.95 pp

**Special Offer:** Book all 3 excursions for just £39.95pp

7 Days • 6 Nights  
15 October & 12 November from £199.95



#### Imperial Rome

Rome is an extraordinary city of spectacular buildings, bustling piazzas, colourful markets, designed stores and world famous landmarks. We stay for 5 nights at a 3\* hotel in the city centre.

- Optional excursions:
- Vatican - tour including guide - £30 per person
- Walking tour of the Colosseum and Forum - £25 per person
- Pompeii - £29 per person

8 Days • 7 Nights  
05 August from £299.95



#### Valkenburg 'Free Bar' Break Hotel Walram

The delightful little town of Valkenburg is set in rolling countryside. There is a hilltop castle and charming town centre with a wide selection of bars, cafes and restaurants. The 3\* Hotel Walram is set in the heart of town. Features include an indoor swimming pool.

- All this is included:
- 4 hours free bar each night
- 1 music night
- Free entrance to the Holland Casino

**Great optional excursions:**

- Antwerp - £9.95 per person
- Cologne - £9.95 per person

**Special Offer:** Book both excursions for just £17pp

5 Days • 4 Nights - 07 November from £199.95



#### Rhine & Wine 'Free Bar' Break Hotel Wagner

Discover the magnificent Rhine & Moselle Valley with its wonderful scenery, fairytale castles, villages and half timbered houses. Hotel Wagner is set in the pleasant village of Camp Bornhofen. Dinner is included on each night and, as well, a 'free bar' with free draught beer, red or white wine and soft drinks between 7.30 and 11pm.

- Optional excursions:
- Koblenz - £9.95pp
- Rudesheim - £9.95pp

**Special Offer:** Book both excursions for just £17.95 pp

4 Days • 3 Nights - 19 September from £149.95



#### French Riviera

Be swept away by the opulence and sophistication of this glamorous area. On the sun drenched stretch of coastline there are luxurious resorts and mediaeval villages. The Mercure is set in the centre of the charming town of Grasse - the world capital of perfume. Dinner is included on each night.

- Optional excursions:
- Nice and Menton - £15 per person
- Monaco and Monte Carlo - £15 per person
- St Tropez and scenic coastal drive - £15 per person

**Special Offer:** Book all 3 excursions for just £40 pp

8 Days • 7 Nights - 08 October from £399.95



#### Lake Garda Super Savers

Escape to beautiful Lake Garda - nestling at the foot of the Dolomites with its mild Mediterranean climate & picturesque mountains

- Optional excursions:
- Lake Garda circular tour taking in the capital of Lake Garda - Garda, and a stop at Malcesine - £9.95 pp
- Verona - £9.95 pp
- Venice - Price: £29.95

**Special Offer:** Book all 3 excursions for just £39.95 per person

7 Days • 6 Nights - 30 October & 06 November from £199.95



#### Antwerp & Ghent - 4\* Crowne Plaza Hotel

Enjoy a weekend break combining a visit to central Antwerp - an international port and leading fashion design city. There is a great selection of bars, cafes and restaurants. On day 3 we visit beautiful Ghent famed for its culture and beautiful old buildings. A guided tour is included. We stay at the top class 4\* Crowne Plaza Hotel set on the outskirts of Ghent. Features include an extensive buffet breakfast and sauna, indoor pool & gym.

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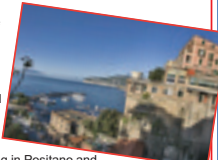
#### Sorrento & the Amalfi Coast

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- Day 3 - Travel through Tuscany to the Sorrento Peninsular area
- Day 4 - We have an optional visit to the Island of Capri - £59.95 per person
- Day 5 - We have included a tour of the Amalfi coast taking in Positano and the Ravello
- Day 6 - You can join our optional visit to Pompeii and Vesuvius - £39.95 per person
- Day 7 - Join our optional visit to Naples - £19.95 pp
- Day 8 - We 'stop over' in the Lake Garda area
- Day 9 - We Travel to Eastern France for the night
- Day 10 - Continue journey home

**Special Offer:** Book all 3 excursions for just £99.95 pp

10 Days • 9 Nights - 30 September from £399.95



#### Austria Super Saver

##### 3\* Hotel Kitzbühler Alpen

Here is a chance to enjoy the splendour of Austria's scenic glory - with its fairytale castles, green flower sprinkled meadows, sparkling mountain air, good food and wine.

##### Optional Excursions:

- Zell am See & Kitzbühel - £9.95 per person
- Munich - don't miss the Frauenkirche Cathedral and the City Hall with its famous glockenspiel - £19.95 per person
- Salzburg - one of Europe's best preserved cities - £15.95

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7 Days • 6 Nights - 01 October from £199.95



#### Italian Dolomites Super Saver

- Price Includes:
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- Optional Excursions: The Dolomites - £22.95pp, Lake Garda - £19.95 pp, Merano and Caldaro for incl. wine tasting - £22.95 pp

**Special Offer:** Book all 3 excursions for just £39.95 pp

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#### Paris Weekends

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#### Lake Garda - with optional visits to Venice & Verona

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#### Ostend's Golden Coast

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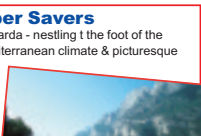
#### Prague - City of 100 Spires

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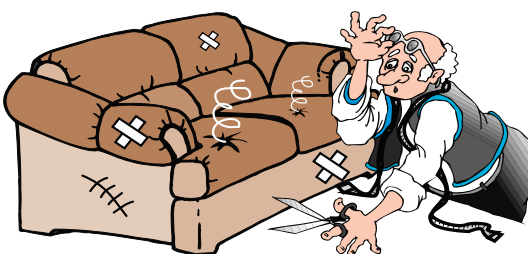
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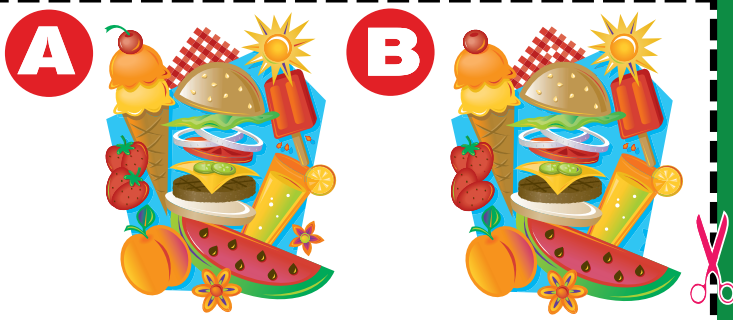


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This week and next week (22nd and 29th July) the Halesowen Chronicle is publishing a 'Spot The Difference' Competition. Simply find the 7 differences between the two pictures below. Save the coupon from this week and next week, do the same and look out for the address of where to send them along with the entry form. It might be advisable to keep this week's page in a safe place so that you can choose who to spend your money with if you are the lucky winner.



**RULES.** Entrants must be aged 18 or over, closing date for entries will be Friday 5th August 2011. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued, the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within 2 months of receipt. Employees (or their immediate relatives) of the Express and Star may NOT enter. The Editors decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.



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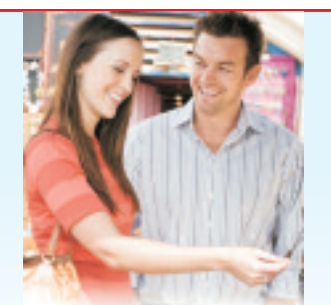
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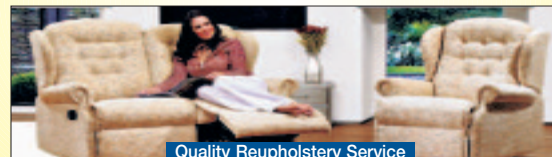
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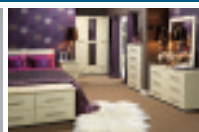
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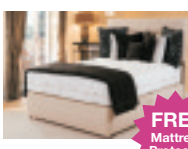
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# Full on festival fever is on the way for summer



Above: Barbados-born singing star Rihanna, let's hope she will not be needing her Umbrella at V

Right: Latin expert Quantic, alias former Bewdley resident Will Holland is at The Big Chill



GLASTONBURY is gone, mired by mud like Latitude and several other top rock festivals but things are just starting to hot up in the Midlands.

In the weeks to come we have the dance version of Glasters, GodsKitchen's Global Gathering, in Warwickshire; The Big Chill in the grounds of Eastnor Castle in Herefordshire; and the really big one, the V Festival at Weston Park, on the Staffs-Shropshire border.

So the region's festival season kicks off tomorrow (Friday, July 29) to Sunday, July 31, with GodsKitchen's Global Gathering. One of the UK's biggest dance festivals, returns to Stratford with headliners Annie Mac, Eric Prydz and Pendulum among others. Tickets range from £62.60 for a day and £109 for the weekend. See [www.globalgathering.com](http://www.globalgathering.com) for details.

Hot on the heels of that event is The Big Chill weekend from August 4 to 7, bringing Kanye West, Jessie J and Chemical Brothers to the parkland near Ledbury for £120 a pop. Also on the bill is the Black Country's own rock god Robert Plant with his Band of Joy on the Sunday (August 7) which is the same day that reunited Handsworth reggae band Steel Pulse play the festival.

## Megastars

It's August 20 and 21 fans will most long for when the V Festival will once again take over Staffordshire's Weston Park, giving everyone from rising stars Wolf Gang, surprise comeback popsters Hanson and megastars Eminem, Rihanna, and Arctic Monkeys a place to play alongside Kaiser Chiefs, Manic Street Preachers, The Script, Dizzee Rascal, Jessie J, Pendulum and the reformed Primal Scream. V also has the biggest pure pop contingent with the likes of The Saturdays, Olly Murs, Eliza Doolittle and The Wanted on the weekend bill. Go online to [www.vfestival.com](http://www.vfestival.com) for details.

One of The Big Chill acts will be warming up with a gig at Birmingham's Hare and Hounds pub venue which promises a scorching July and August of summer sounds with lots of tropical beats including plenty of funk, reggae and soul.

Former Worcestershire DJ Will Holland, from Bewdley, who is now based in South America brings his Combo Barbaro under his alias of Quantic to the Kings Heath venue on August 5. The group's recent album Transition in Tradition is a multi-cultural patchwork of cumbia, deep funk, tropical dub and many styles between. In 2007 Holland moved to Cali, Colombia's third largest city, to pursue his passion for Latin music.

Also lined up for the pub venue are reggae collective The Easy All-Stars, best known for their reggae versions of albums by Pink Floyd and The Beatles; Massive Attack co-founder and trip-hop pioneer Daddy G with Birmingham's rising Alternative Dubstep Orchestra; Walsall's Goldie; and punk pioneers The Rezillos, and favourite regular Big Chill DJ Mr Scruff. For full listings see the venue's website at <http://hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk/>



Above: from the multi-million selling debut Employment back in 2005 through to the recent The Future Is Medieval, Kaiser Chiefs have been a top UK band and they follow their Glastonbury performance with a gig at the V Festival; Right: Chemical Brothers will be bringing those block rocking beats to The Big Chill, a festival which also features (left) rock legend Robert Plant with his Band of Joy



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Captain America - 2D - (12A) - FLS ALL WEEK 1220 1800	Bridesmaids - (15) ALL WEEK 2040
Horrid Henry - 2D - (PG) - FLS ALL WEEK 1000 1200	Kids Club Kung Fu Panda (PG) ALL WEEK 1020
Cars2 - 3D - (U) - FLS ALL WEEK 1330 1810	FLS - Free List Suspended (No Complimentary Tickets)
Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part 2 - 3D - (12A) - FLS ALL WEEK 2030	Program Subject to Change
Cars2 - 2D - (U) - FLS ALL WEEK 1110 1550	Reel Monday & Wednesday - £3.10, 3D Films £4.20
Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part 2 - 3D - (12A) - FLS ALL WEEK	FLS - FREE LIST SUSPENDED (NO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS)

REEL MONDAY & WEDNESDAY - £3.10, 3D FILMS £4.20

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**9.00 Breakfast** 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Ever 11.00 The Good Cook (F) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather 12.30 Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying. Live coverage from Budapest (Start-time 10.00pm) 1.30 Swimming 1.50 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. The third day from Carnoustie 2.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather 2.30 Total Wipeout (F)

**9.00 Tonight's the Night**. Glee star Matthew Morrison. The One Show's Matt Baker, pop singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor and the cast of Billy Elliot. The musical help make dressing come true. Hosted by John Barrowman.

**10.00 The Hundred Lottery: A New Year's Quiz** show, including the all-important numbers.

**10.30 Comedy**. Adam's medical misadventures come back to haunt him when paedophile Matthew Hoadkin is admitted with liver failure, and Kirsty makes a drastic decision about her future.

**11.00 John Bishop's British**. New series. Entertainment show with guest Andrew Flintoff.

**11.00 BBC Children's National Lottery** Update.

**9.00 FLEET Way Adams**. (2004) Historical adventure, starring Clive Owen.

**11.00 FLEET Audleyville & The Poison Cloud** (1982) Horror prequel, starring Burt Young; Weathernews.

12.00 BBC News

**9.00 CBeebies** 9.00 CBBC 12.00 Linea (F) 12.30 Coast (F) 12.45 Antiques Road Trip (F) 1.00 Antiques Road Trip (F) 1.30 Film: Soder and Gomerah (1982) British drama, starring Stewart Granger, Pier Angeli, Stanley Baker and Puccina Puccini 2.00 Flog It! (F) 2.30 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. The third day from Carnoustie.



**9.00 Live Action**. The World's Funniest and UK Championship.

**10.00 Don't Be Afraid**. The plotline has a clean engine problem. (F)

**10.30 The Day's Greatest** - Friday night. The people depicted by the movement's artists.

**11.00 BBC Proms 2011**. Andie Meloni conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in two works by Richard Strauss, Mahler's Violin Concerto with soloist Mikko, and Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky.

**11.30 The Bob Bryden Show**. With Bill Bailey, Beverley Knight and Colin Facknola (F)

**11.30 TOTP: The Special**. Memorable performances from the 1980s. (F)

**12.00 Film: Tapeheads** (1988) Comedy with Tim Robbins 2.30 Film: Summer (2007) British drama, starring Robert Carlyle.

**9.00 QTV Mini QTV** 12.00 QTV 12.30 Ten Mile Menu (F) 12.45 Coronation Street 1.00 This Morning Saturday 1.30 QTV News; Weather 1.50 Film: Agatha Christie Murder in Easy (1982) Murder mystery with Bill Bixby 2.30 Film: Columbus: A Story in Crime (1978) Crime drama, with Peter Falk 3.45 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 - Behind the Magic (F) 4.15 Regional Programme 12.00 QTV News; Weather 12.30 Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

**4.15 Old One Is**. Coronation Street and Emmerdale come complete.

**1.00 Puss & Tigger Pool Us**. Another four acts, including a card-champion and a Cuban magician now living in Kent, try to outwit the illusionist with mind-boggling tricks.

**10.00 The Evening Post**. With Denise Van Outen, Sarah Milligan and Midge Managan. Last in the series.



**11.00 ITV News: Weather** 11.15 Film: The Specialist (1984) Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and Sharon Stone.

**11.15 The Zone**. ITV News Headlines 11.15 In Plain Sight 11.30 ITV Nightcross 12.00 ITV Morning News.

**9.00 The Hoobs** (F) 9.30 The Film Show (F) 10.00 British Formula 1 International Series 10.30 The Grid 11.00 The Morning Line 11.30 T4: Friends (F) 12.30 T4: Holyoke Music Show 12.45 T4: Smallville (F) 1.00 T4: Friends (F) 1.30 T4: Pop Up Pop Quiz 1.45 T4: Dirty Sexy Things 1.50 The TV Book Club 1.55 Channel 4 Presents - Danielle Brown 2012 (F) 2.00 Channel 4 Faking 2.05 Channel 4 Presents - Daniel Smith 2012 (F) 3.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion (F) 3.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion (F) 3.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion (F) 4.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion (F) 4.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion (F)

**9.15 Channel 4 News** 9.30 4News



**9.15 FLEET Crossed**. Daniel E. (1988) Comedy, starring Paul Hogan.

**1.00 Comedy**. Harold Lloyd dies to Arthur's outburst at Barton Face.

**9.00 FLEET Crossed**. (2008) Thriller, starring Michael Stahl-David, Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas and TJ Miller.

**11.00 FLEET Underworld: Evolution** (2006) Horror fantasy sequel, starring Kate Beckinsale and Scott Speedman.

**11.30 Bung, Boogie and Botox** (F) 12.00 24 Hours in A&E (F) 12.30 Embarrassing Bodies: Teen Special (F) 1.00 Hill Street Blues (F) 1.30 Bonito Be Different (F)

**9.00 Milkshake** 9.00 Inside Hollywood (F) 9.30 Mexican Food Music Show (F) 10.00 Film: Cleopatra Returns (1984) John Ford's Western, with Richard Widmark 1.00 Film: Sugarfoot (1951) Western, starring Randolph Scott 1.30 Film: Van Arrow (1954) Western, starring Jeff Chandler 1.55 Film: Blue Thunder (1983) Action adventure, starring Roy Scheider.

**12.00 Celebs**. England's India. With analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

**12.30 11.00**. The team suspects a desperate Marine may have failed his own death with the help of a friend and blown up an ambulance in a botched attempt to cover all traces of the subterfuge. (F)

**1.00 CSI: Miami**. A golf instructor is found guilty of murder, but the team suspects his attorney actually helped get him convicted to protect a more powerful client.

**10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit**. The detective investigate the world of ultimate fighting.

**10.30 CSI: Crime Scene**. A respected psychiatrist is attacked in her home. (F)

**11.30 Inside Hollywood**. Magazine show (F)

**12.00 Super Casino** 9.30 The Family Recipe (F) 9.30 The FBI Files (F) 10.00 Hannu Holme (F) 10.30 The Hitchhiker Show (F) 11.00 Thomas & Friends (F) 11.30 Furry's Racing Car (F)

**ITV2** 6.50 Film: Free Billy (1933) A boy battles a capricious father who, but when he learns the animal is to be killed, he makes plans to release it into the coast. Drama, with Jason James Riddle and Lori Petty including Fy Daily 6.00 Film: The Mimmy (1937) A child of fortune battles the vengeful spirit of an ancient Egyptian high priest with supernatural powers. Action adventure, with Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz and Anjelica Huston including Fy Daily 11.55 Film: Hamlet (2009)

**ITV3** 1.00 Film: Carry On Cowboy (1968) 3.00 Agatha Christie's Myples 6.05 Film: Columbia Adios to the (1938) 8.00 Dookin' 8.00 A Touch of Frost 11.55 Myples

**ITV4** 1.00 Live: The European Championship. 5.00 Frankie's Film: Venice the World 6.00 Myples. Arthur suffers depression. 7.00 Live: The Darts. The season on day three of the European Championship. 11.00 Film: Red Heat (1988)

**BBC THREE** 7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride 8.00 Great Movie Moments 2 The Seagull 11.00 Family Guy 11.55 American Dad!

**BBC FOUR** 7.00 The Euro Planet 8.00 Fy Daily: Gosh! Talk: The History of the Home 8.00 Myples 10.00 The Great Outdoors 11.00 The Great British Outdoors

**ITV5** 1.25 Hollywood 5.00 Film: One Tree Hill 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Howl at Your Mother 8.00 Film: There's Something About Mary (1998)

**FLEET** 9.30 The War of the Worlds (1953) 5.00 Dr. Dobbs (1988) 6.00 Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) 8.00 The Bank Job (2008) 11.00 Cards (1976)

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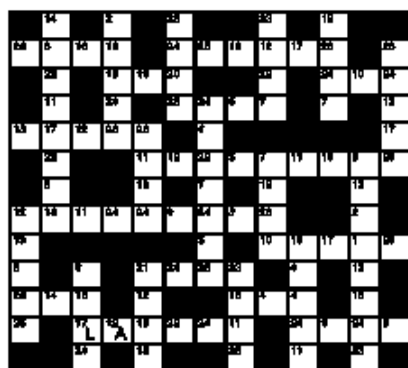


# Brain Gym

No. 127

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

R	L	I	Y	K	Z	J	M	H	O	C	X	Q
A	F	P	U	W	B	V	N	D	G	T	E	S

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## Double Crossword

Choose either guide or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Is this what the mathematician is using dividers for? (7)
- Fuel taken aboard, we hear, at the end of the Panama Canal (5)
- A shelf for the unfinished account book (5)
- A good one will choose his cards carefully (7)
- How people moved by 'The Tempest' led? (5, 6)
- Presumably they are appreciative of services rendered (6, 6)
- Do the conventional thing and study how the horses run (7)
- Matchbox for the factory is a put up job (5)
- Step in the place, as expected (5)
- 22, 3D n. & 4D n. How long does it take to progress? (2, 5, 6)

#### Down

- & 2D n. A machine for a resolutionary device (11)
- See 1 Down
- See 22 Across
- See 22 Across
- Held up by a gun man - but insured? (7)
- Contentious party demanding loud, dramatic movement (7)
- There's a powerful drawback to this sport (7)
- This can be proved by those people holding razor blades (7)
- Don't accept what has been discarded (5)
- This will even out the vote (5)
- Turns up the out things (5)
- A bit of poor, yellow grass (5)

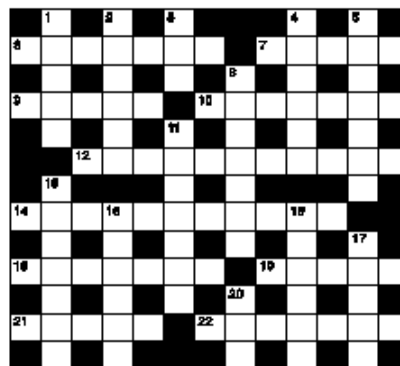
### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Coaster (7)
- Chastity (5)
- Chief (5)
- Uprightness (7)
- Wasteful (11)
- Unusual (11)
- Childish (7)
- Live (5)
- Boast (5)
- Pluck (7)

#### Down

- Cheek (5)
- Quintillion (5)
- Porkum (5)
- Predance (5)
- Remade (5)
- Salk (7)
- Fragle (7)
- Nominal (7)
- Mission (5)
- Indulgence in early pleasures (6)
- Custom (5)
- Shoe (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
 CRIP TIC - Across: 1. Scurrying, 2. Home, 3. Forward, 10. Flocking, 11. Mass, 12. Forward, 13. Motion, 17. Toll, 18. Shopping, 21. Curious, 22. Future, 23. Ambulance. Down: 1. Swamp, 2. Children, 3. Email, 4. Start, 5. Vandal, 6. Criminal, 12. Shareholder, 12. Forward, 14. Pulling, 16. Stairs, 17. Advice, 20. First. QUICK - Across: 1. Stuck still, 2. Again, 3. Mouth, 10. Whirlwind, 11. Sings, 13. Quarry, 16. Check, 17. Blow, 18. Full stop, 21. Mirror, 22. Iron, 23. Playful. Down: 1. Ship, 2. Chatterbox, 3. Rivals, 4. Toll, 5. Licensee, 6. Calamity, 12. Spinning, 12. Chilling, 14. Tossing, 16. Motion, 17. Tank, 20. Cope.

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row, every column, every 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

		7		9		8		
2			8		1		6	4
6								3
		1	6		7		6	
4								6
	8		5	2	3	4		
9								2
1	4		7		8		9	5
		6		3		1		

## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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## Modern detached on the market priced £225,000

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This new-build four-bedroom detached property is for sale at £225,000 – with no chain – and has to be seen to be fully appreciated.

The house, at 14 Wakeman Drive, Tividale, Oldbury, has two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, utility room, guest WC, en suite to master bedroom and family bathroom, and comes with central heating and double glazing.

The property is approached via a front driveway leading to the front entrance door with side garage and lawned area with bushes.

The entrance hallway has doors leading off to all reception rooms, fitted kitchen and with stairs to the first floor landing.

### Measures

The lounge is 16ft 3in by 10ft 5in and has French doors leading to the dining room, which measures 10ft 1in by 8ft 10in and has French doors to the rear garden.

The fitted kitchen – 12ft 7in by 9ft 9in – has matching wall and base units, roll top work surfaces, space for utilities, gas hob with oven below and extractor fan above.

On the ground floor there is also a utility room and guest WC, while on the first floor are four bedrooms, with bedroom one measuring 11ft 3in by 15ft 2in and having an en suite with shower cubicle, low level WC and wash hand basin.

The family bathroom has a white suite comprising low level WC, panel bath with electric shower above and hand wash basin.

The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn, with patio and decking areas, shrubs and bushes, fencing and brick-built wall to its perimeters.

Contact estate agent Bairstow Eves on 0121 422 0090 for details.



Number 14 Wakeman Drive, situated in Tividale, is a four-bed detached on a corner plot with many quality features, including an en suite bathroom

Despite the economic downturn, 89 percent of families would class themselves as happy and 71 percent of the adults polled in recent research described their household as 'completely normal'.

But before you start to worry that you are the only household not playing Happy Families, be assured that the typical local household also admits to a family row at least once a week!

Mary Turner, CEO of AlertMe, says: "At AlertMe we are passionate about helping families to take control and save money, so we carried out this study to know how they were spending it in the first place."

"Without a doubt these have been testing times for everyone – especially families and the recession has been a wake-up call, but this study shows that people are really trying to spend within their means."

However in some areas, such as household energy, they don't even have the visibility to help them manage their bills."

The research was carried out by Alert Me, as part of an initiative to recruit a national panel of families that will carry out a series of household money-saving experiments.

The findings will then be shared so other families can review how they might cut down on their household bills. Families interested in registering should visit [www.alertme.com/the-panel](http://www.alertme.com/the-panel)

AlertMe claims that its Home Energy Management system – which lets people visualise their energy usage in real time, determine its cost and make the best use of energy – can help achieve energy bill savings of around 15-25 per cent, without sacrificing comfort.

AlertMe is searching for 100 households from across the country to participate in an experiment that will create a picture of today's Britain.

All members of the panel will be asked to take part in three to four challenges during the year.

Challenges will last about a week and be fun and easy to carry out around people's daily lives. For example, our first challenge will ask you to live on an energy budget.

Families interested in signing-up should register at the website [www.alertme.com/the-panel](http://www.alertme.com/the-panel)

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<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>King Charles Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Semi detached family house</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Good size rear garden</li><li>* Extended living room</li><li>* Extended kitchen/breakfast room</li><li>* Ground floor shower room</li><li>* Utility</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £214,950</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Woodbury Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Extended link detached house</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Extended kitchen</li><li>* Living Room * Family Room</li><li>* Downstairs Shower Room</li><li>* Well appointed Bathroom</li></ul></div> <div>£190,000</div>	<div>QUINTON</div> <div></div> <div>Glynside Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Recently modernised semi</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Through lounge &amp; dining area</li><li>* Kitchen area with appliances</li><li>* Extensive garden</li><li>* Must be viewed!</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £152,500</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Oaklands Court Spies Lane</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* First floor apartment</li><li>* Spacious &amp; well appointed</li><li>* Two bedrooms (with wardrobes)</li><li>* Fitted kitchen</li><li>* Super living room</li><li>* Early inspection essential.</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £132,500</div>	<div>WEST BROMWICH</div> <div></div> <div>66 Margaret Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Traditional terraced house</li><li>* 2 bedrooms</li><li>* 2 reception rooms</li><li>* gas boiler/radiator heating system</li><li>* carpets/floor coverings</li><li>* convenient for west brom town centre</li></ul></div> <div>Monthly rent of £465</div>	<div>BRIERLEY HILL</div> <div></div> <div>Quarry Bank Flat 23B High Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* One bedroom flat</li><li>* Kitchen with oven and fridge</li><li>* Bathroom with shower over bath</li><li>* Bedroom with wardrobe</li><li>* Unfurnished</li><li>* Ideal for access to Merry Hill</li><li>* Available now</li></ul></div> <div>Monthly rent of £300</div>	<div>DUDLEY Netherton</div> <div></div> <div>Unit 13 Central Park Industrial Estate Halesowen Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Workshop/warehouse</li><li>* Established industrial estate</li><li>* Well-presented with painted floor</li><li>* Two toilets and small kitchen</li><li>* Good natural lighting &amp; roller shutter door</li><li>* GIA: 132.06 sq.m. (1,421 sq.ft.)</li></ul></div> <div>Annual rent Of £4,550</div>	
<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Upper Ashley Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* End terraced house</li><li>* tastefully presented</li><li>* three bedrooms</li><li>* principal bedroom with en-suite</li><li>* pleasant rear garden</li><li>* gas boiler heating radiators</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £128,000</div>	<div>QUINTON</div> <div></div> <div>Ridgacre Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Traditional style semi</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Through living room</li><li>* Conservatory</li><li>* Popular location</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £125,000</div>	<div>CRADLEY HEATH</div> <div></div> <div>Station Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Victorian style semi-detached house</li><li>* Tastefully improved</li><li>* two reception rooms</li><li>* Breakfast room &amp; fitted kitchen</li><li>* Off road parking</li><li>* spacious accommodation</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £119,950</div>	<div>OLDBURY</div> <div></div> <div>Guardian House Hagley Road West</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* First floor retirement flat</li><li>* two bedrooms</li><li>* lift facility</li><li>* non allocated parking</li><li>* government grant aided scheme</li></ul></div> <div>Offers in the region of £64,950</div>	<div>LAND FOR SALE</div> <div>STOURBRIDGE Lye</div> <div>POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT LAND</div> <div>Development Site Fronting Brook St &amp; Attwood St</div> <div>An opportunity to acquire a potential residential development site with site extending to 0.48 acres 0.19 hectares, subject to receiving planning approval.</div> <div>Offers invited</div>		<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Richmond Street</div> <div><div>SINGLE BUILDING PLOT AND BUNGALOW REFURBISHMENT</div><div>An opportunity to acquire a detached bungalow requiring complete refurbishment and having planning permission to revise internal layout and to extend to provide three bedroom accommodation and also a separate plot for a three bedroom detached house with study fronting Windsor Road.</div></div> <div>Offers in the region of £195,000</div>	<div>DUDLEY</div> <div></div> <div>11 Paganel Industrial Estate Turner Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Ideal starter unit</li><li>* Small private estate</li><li>* Good security</li><li>* Gated access</li><li>* Roller shutter door</li><li>* Washroom</li></ul></div> <div>Rent: £3,600 pa plus VAT</div>



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**CRADLEY HEATH, THE CRESCENT**

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**£995 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, HUNTLANDS ROAD**

Located on the Huntlands Estate, is this three story terraced property, close to Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Warm Air Heating, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

**£695 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, COMPTON ROAD**

Situated just off Kent Road is this unfurnished semi detached house, which has been refurbished and comprises of: Three Double Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, En-Suite, Garage and Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens

**£675 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE, OFFMOOR LANE**

Luxury Living In Hayley Green A superb, brand new luxury apartment on the first floor. Offering spacious accommodation including, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen and Diner with French Doors to Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

**£625 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY**

Situated on the popular Homer Hill Estate is this semi-detached home, close to local train station and shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Brand New Bathroom with Shower, Brand New Kitchen, Spacious Living Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Unfurnished UNDERGOING REFURBISHMENT

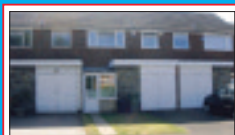
**£595 PCM**



**HAGLEY, MILL POOL CLOSE**

Located in a peaceful location with lovely views is this unfurnished luxury ground floor apartment, in a Cul-De-Sac Location, on the Huntlands Estate, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Shower Room, Garage En Bloc, Allocated Parking, Own Garden

**£595 PCM**



**BLACKHEATH, HOLT ROAD**

An immaculately presented mid terraced home, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage, Unfurnished

**£595 PCM**



**ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD**

This detached house in a cul-de-sac location, and close to local shops and transport links, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

**£595 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, CHURCHILL ROAD**

An opportunity to rent this unfurnished ground floor apartment, in a Cul-De-Sac Location, on the Huntlands Estate, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Shower Room, Garage En Bloc, Allocated Parking, Own Garden

**£525 PCM**



**BLACKHEATH, BEAUMONT ROAD**

A modern mid terraced house set back on this very popular road, briefly comprising of: Lounge, New Fitted Kitchen, New Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Conservatory, Unfurnished

**£525 PCM**



**ROWLEY REGIS, HACKETT ROAD**

An unfurnished semi detached family home in a popular location, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Double Glazing Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Dining Kitchen, Guest WC, Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and Driveway Parking.

**£500 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, BARNWOOD CLOSE**

A lovely part furnished modern mid terraced house, local to bus routes, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

**£499 PCM**



**CRADLEY HEATH, DELINGPOLE WALK**

Located on a popular development, close to local train station is this unfurnished, mid mews house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Garage

**£495 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, FAIRMILE ROAD**

A first floor furnished to suit flat, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Warm Air Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Well Kept Communal Gardens, Parking Space, Inspection Recommended

**£495 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, SUNBURY ROAD**

This spacious mid terraced house, set in a cul-de-sac location, and close to Winsor School and close to Halesowen and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

**£495 PCM**



**CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE**

This modern first floor apartment situated on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space, Unfurnished

**£475 PCM**



**UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE**

Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end mews house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

**£475 PCM**



**OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD**

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished

**£425 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY**

An opportunity to acquire a spacious first floor apartment on the ever popular Homer Hill estate, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished

**£400 PCM**



**CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA GARDENS**

A modern top floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill, with local bus stop outside, and Old Hill train station close by, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished

**£395 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE**

On this popular development, is this unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage

**£380 PCM**

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The breakfast kitchen has plenty of storage in its wall and base units and there is ample work surface too

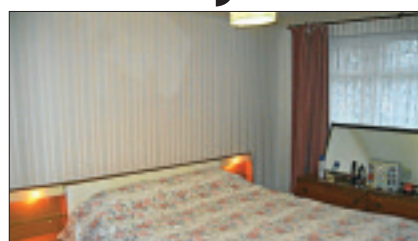
# Detached house priced £149,995

Offers in the region of £149,995 are being invited for 5 Stead Close, Burberry Grange, Tipton, a modern three-bedroom detached property.

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location, the house has gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) with lounge, conservatory, recently re-fitted shower room, reception hall and guest WC, open plan fitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and encloses rear garden and garage.

The lounge measures 15ft 2in by 12ft 10in, while the kitchen is 16ft 2in by 10ft 8in – and the conservatory 15ft 10in by 9ft 7in.

Call Paul Dubberley on 0121 505 3533 for more details.



One of the bedrooms in Stead Close, Burberry Grange



This modern three-bed detached is on the market in Tipton via popular local estate agent Paul Dubberley



The addition of a conservatory has added to the appeal of this property, situated in a cul-de-sac



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## Presented to a high standard

This sizeable four-bedroom detached home at 11, St Peter Croft, Wednesbury, is for sale with offers around £249,995. Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location, the property has a lounge with feature fireplace, fitted breakfast kitchen and utility room, reception hall and guest WC, dining room, four double bedrooms – the master with en suite dressing room and shower room – and double garage with off-road parking for five cars.

The lounge is 21ft 9in by 1ft 1in, with the breakfast kitchen 15ft 9in by 8ft 9in and dining room measuring 13ft 2in by 1ft 8in.

The family bathroom is 12ft 5in by 7ft 10in. Call estate agent Paul Dubberley on 0121 505 3533 for further information.



One of the four bedrooms at number 11 St Peter Croft. The master bedroom benefits from an en suite

## Grow your own vertically

As the trend for 'grow your own' continues to rise, gardeners are becoming increasingly inventive with their growing space and it seems the humble vegetable is going up in the world.

Nigel Bishop, Horticultural Advisor to the Shrewsbury Flower Show offers some tips on vertical gardening.

At this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, B&Q won a gold medal for its nine metre high edible garden. Created using a series of vertical window boxes and planting on both vertical and horizontal planes, the garden made amazing use of space and was the highest ever constructed at Chelsea.

Designed by award-winning designers and three time gold medal winners Laurie Chetwood and Patrick Collins, the aim of the garden was to encourage communities and individuals to develop sustainable food growing spaces.

The planting on the nine metre high glass tower was achieved using a collection of window boxes filled with tomatoes, peppers and edible flowers, and a living wall full of herbs.

The National Trust started campaigning for vertical vegetable gardens in 2009 by growing vegetables in window boxes and hanging baskets at their historic houses. They claim that window boxes on England's windowsills could provide the equivalent of 600 acres of farming land, resulting in cheap, local and tasty food for urbanites.

Using space efficiently in a small garden, patio or window box takes a little extra planning.

If you are new to growing and are unsure about exactly what to do and when, be guided by neighbouring gardeners and what they are successfully growing. Also study seed catalogues and packets that highlight varieties with compact growth habits.

Mail order seed company Thompson & Morgan, who will be exhibiting in the Quarry Marquee at this year's Shrewsbury Flower Show, sell a Vertical Vegetable Collection kit, which promises to 'transform your walls and fences into a nutritious, kitchen garden'.

The collection comprises: Runner Bean (Hestia); Lettuce (Ultimate); Dwarf Bean (Golden Teepee); Salad Leaves; Tomato (Tasty Tumbler); five Flower Pouches® and feed. The website [www.verticalveg.org.uk](http://www.verticalveg.org.uk) claims you can grow as much on a balcony as you can on an allotment and you can enjoy crops month after month.

The 2011 Shrewsbury Flower Show will take place on 12 and 13 August and top TV gardener, Chris Beardshaw is making his seventh successive visit to the show.

For further information and tickets go to [www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk](http://www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk) or call 01743 234 058.



The dining room measures approximately 13ft x 8ft

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55 Reg	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 HDi	DESIRE MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 49k	£4695	£30	
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE	Blue, A/C, CD, 5-door, 29k	£4195	£28	
04 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME	Orange, Alloys, CD	£3295	£23	
06 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi	STYLE Red, Diesel, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, £30 year Road Tax	£4695	£30	
06 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC	Black, Alloys, CD, FSH, 30k	£4495	£29	
08 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC	Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5495	£35	
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi	LX ESTATE Blue, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£3995	£26	
06 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX	DUAL FUEL Blue, Petrol/Gas, A/C, CD, FSH	£4495	£29	
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07 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi	LX Red, Diesel, Alloys, CD	£5195	£28	
06 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i	COLLECTION Black, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance	£2695	£17	
08 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i	STYLE Blue, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance, 33k	£3995	£26	
58 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i	STYLE Red, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance	£3695	£24	
08 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCi	EDGE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68k	£7395	£44	
58 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCi	EDGE ESTATE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 68k	£7395	£44	
08 Reg	FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCi	ZETEC MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£7495	£na	
04 Reg	FORD FUSION 1.4S	Silver, A/C, CD, Low Insurance	£3695	£24	
07 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0	DD Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5195	£39	
56 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0	CLASSIC Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£6495	£40	
56 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0	SE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather Seats, FSH	£6695	£43	
03 Reg	MINI COOPER 1.6	Yellow with White Viper Stripes, White Alloys, CD	£5495	£35	
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53 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 SE	Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD Multi Changer	£2995	£19	
04 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 S	Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3195	£21	
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE	Black A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 34k	£5195	£28	
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi	90 SPORT DIESEL Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 34k	£6195	£39	
51 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 2.0 XSi	Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Sports Seats	£1695	£na	
53 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S	ESTATE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Roof rails & bars, 67k	£3195	£21	

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MANY MORE CARS IN STOCK			Sale Price	Weekly Equity
04 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S	ESTATE AUTOMATIC Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3495	£23
05 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 X-LINE	Red, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3695	£24
55 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S	Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 59k	£4495	£29
55 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S	Black, 2006, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 37k	£4695	£30
05 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI	RUSH Bronze, CD, Low Insurance Group 1, 30 Road Tax	£3195	£21
57 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2	CAMPUS Black, 5-door, Low Insurance Group 1, FSH, 33k	£4195	£28
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6	DYNAMIQUE Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, 56k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI	86 MAXIM Black, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, 3-door, FSH	£5495	£35
07 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI	DYNAMIQUE Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Road Tax, FSH	£5695	£36
03 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.4	FIDUJ MPV Red, A/C, Alloys, CD	£2495	£16
04 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.6	DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
07 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI	DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4995	£32
1 Reg	SAAB 93	CONVERTIBLE Green, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather Sport Seats, FSH, p/x to clear	£1695	£na
56 Reg	SEAT LEON 1.9 TDI	Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3695	£24
56 Reg	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3	VVT-i COLOUR COLLECTION Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 28k	£4695	£30
57 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i	LIFE Silver, 2008, A/C, CD, 53k	£5495	£35
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi	16V LIFE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, Low Road Tax	£5195	£33
06 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i	VVT DESIGN Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Sport Seats	£4195	£28
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08 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6	LIFE MPV Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 7 seater, FSH, 28k	£6695	£41
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi	CLUB Black, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5995	£38
53 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.0 S	Ti Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Full Winter Pack, FSH	£3995	£26
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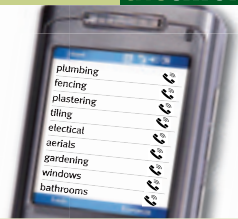




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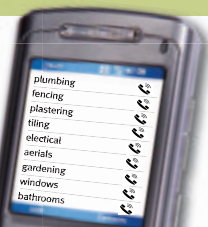
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# sport

## Coach sends warning to British Olympic athletes

Charles van Commenee has warned Britain's track and field athletes they are not ready for the London Olympics.

The head coach of UK Athletics believes they need every one of the 365 days remaining before the opening ceremony to make the necessary improvements if Britain are to reach the target of eight medals, including at least one gold.

Van Commenee reckons the British team need at least 15 athletes capable of making the medal podium to hit their target.

"If everybody is fit then yes, we might be

OK, but that will never happen so we need a few more," said van Commenee. "We are not ready to do the Games now. We need those 12 months. I started this job two and a half years ago. I knew from the start that was not one day too many. Three and a half years is a very short time. We still have athletes underperforming at the moment. We need those 12 months to turn things around."

He cites 400m runners Michael Bingham and Martyn Rooney, who won silver and bronze at the European Championships last year but have struggled to match that since.

"If they would run the times they are doing now next year that is trouble," said van Commenee. "That should not happen, they should have run faster by now."

He insists he has put the much-publicised Twitter row with triple jumper Phillips Idowu behind him and believes there is no lasting damage. Idowu has a realistic chance of winning gold in London.

Van Commenee said: "Elite athletes have the ability to focus on their own business. They are focused on jumping far and the rest is not relevant."



Sam Ermolenko leads Jan O Pedersen in the first of their three-match race series on Tuesday evening

## Pedersen determined to come back

HEATHENS hero Jan O Pedersen's comeback trail may be even harder than he thought.

The former world champion, whose career was halted by a back injury 19 years ago, is determined to make a return to competitive racing at the age of 48.

He took his first steps at the Golden Hammer on Tuesday with a best of three match race series against Wolves legend Sam Ermolenko – and lost 3-0.

These affairs are generally

politely staged, with each rider winning a leg apiece before a genuine race in the decider.

But Pedersen, who is dead earnest about finding his current level, urged his fellow former world kingpin not to rein himself in – and 'Sudden Sam' took him at his word with three sharp gates and never looked back.

"I wanted to see what speed I've got to get up to," said Pedersen, who got a tumultuous welcome from the predominantly Heathens

crowd and admitted before the racing that he was short of practice.

"To see this crowd is absolutely amazing. Enjoyment is what I am all about – and this is really enjoying life," he said.

As to the future, Pedersen added: "I will see how far it goes and who comes up with a good contract."

"The only thing I wish to see is Cradley back with their own track."

## Injured star Roynton vows to battle on

RETURNING star Adam Roynton crashed out of the Golden Hammer meeting – his first fixture since breaking his femur, *writes Tim Hamblin*.

The Dudley star has a trapped nerve from his Monmore Green spill, but believes there is no long-term damage.

And he's looking forward to riding for the Heathens in Saturday's National League Fours at Stoke.

"I've trapped a nerve in the back of my shoulder," said the Cumbrian, who was in title contention after three races last night only to overcook it and fall on the second bend in his next outing.

"It's just a little bit painful for the minute."

"I've got a day to recover now for my next three meetings (Redcar tomorrow, Somerset on Friday and then Stoke), so with some intensive physio on it I should be back fit."

"I was really disappointed in myself. I only came here to get the laps under my belt and see how my leg was, really."

"Now I'm coming away from it with an injury because I got thoughts of winning in my mind and tried to race the riders instead of racing the track."

"I put too much pressure on myself after my third ride, when I was beaten, and thought: 'I have to make up the points now.'"

"I let the pressure get to me a little bit, which I don't normally do. So I need to learn from that for the future."

### Sidelined

Roynton comes back with his replacement, Kyle Newman, ironically sidelined by injury.

Roynton's withdrawal from the meeting and the absence of Newman left the spectacular Tom Perry and veteran Jon Armstrong to carry the Dudley flag at the higher end of the scorechart.

But neither could find a rostrum spot on a night when a massive crowd was treated to some superb racing with no fewer than three heats decided by the proverbial tyre's width.

Roynton twice swapped the lead with the persevering Jay Herno in heat nine before the Newport man struck at the last gasp; three races later Richie Worrall furthered his title claims by squeezing through the slimmest of gaps between Todd Kurtz and the fence on the run-in and in the fifteenth Ashley Morris held off the charging Kyle Hughes by the merest whisker.

Hughes looked the likely winner after three races apiece but the heroics of Morris opened the door for Richie Worrall only for a heat 16 tumble to close it once more.

The fast-starting Allott and the classy Kurtz each finished with wins to put the pressure on Hughes, who knew that he had to be first to the flag in heat 20 to take the crown.

The King's Lynn man made no mistake, his victory fully merited.

But on a night when Dudley Council officials were present to take the speedway temperature as the Heathens continue to search for a possible stadium site, thoughts were turning to the future rather than the past.

### Points Scored:

Kyle Hughes 13, Adam Allott 12, Todd Kurtz 12, Richie Worrall 10, Tom Perry 10, Jon Armstrong 9, Adam Roynton 7, Jay Herno 7, Steven Worrall 7, Brendan Johnson 7, Ashley Morris 7, Shane Hazelden 4, Darryl Ritchings 4, Byron Bekker 4, Richard Franklin 3, Adam Portwood (res) 3, Jack Hargreaves 0, Cameron Hoskins (res) 0.

## Friendly fixtures for the Yeltz

The Yeltz are at home to local rivals Stourbridge this Saturday kick-off is 3pm in a pre-season friendly.

They then go on to play another home match against Evesham United on Tuesday August 2 kick-off is 7.45pm. Which is followed by an away fixture at Redditch United on Saturday August 6, kick-off 3pm.

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# OLD HILL TAKEN BY TITLE RIVALS

### OLD HILL CRICKET CLUB

**BERKSWELL (24PTS) 130-4 BEAT OLD HILL (2PTS) 127 BY 6 WKTS**

The 1st XI chose to bat after winning the toss away at title rivals Berkswell.

They lost both openers Danny Cox (2) and Mike Hingley (19) with the score on 26. But worse was to follow when captain Nathan Round was also out lbw without scoring (26-3).

Nitesh Patel (22), Dan Wood (26) and Mark Fisher could only manage to get the score up to 111-9 before a last wicket stand between Fisher (25 no) and Zafraan Ali (14) got the total up to 127 all out in the 43rd over.

This total never seemed competitive enough and Berkswell cruised to victory after an early scare when they were 9-2.

Zafraan Ali (2-33), Nathan Round (1-18) and a valiant effort by Ed Denham of 17-35-1 could not prise the home batsmen out, with the hosts winning in 48.1 overs to regain top spot.

**OLD HILL (20PTS) 136-1 BEAT KIDDERMINSTER VICTORIA (1PT) 135 BY 9 WKTS**

The 2nd XI game at Haden Hill against Kidderminster got under way in bright but breezy conditions as Old Hill opted to field.

The visitors were reduced to 57-4 before stubborn resistance by Turley (46) and Derick (34) took the score to 124 before Kidderminster lost their last five wickets for just 11 runs to be bowled out for 135 in 35 overs.

Old Hill made a solid start in reply as Joe Thom and Shezad Aslam put together an opening partnership of 89 before Aslam was out for 33. Thom (53 no) was joined by Chris Round (33 no) and they saw Old Hill home in the 31st over.

**OLD HILL (24PTS) 184 BEAT OLD ELIZABETHANS (4PTS) 87 BY 97 RUNS**

Having lost the toss, the 3rd XI were invited to bat first in their game at Wassell Grove against Old Elizabethans. Old Hill's batsmen got off to a very poor start which just got worse at 47-7. However, a magnificent effort from the lower order of Joel Foster (57), Danny Claves (43) and Winston Lewis (31), gave the hosts hope as they posted a total of 184 in 44.1 overs, with Adam Hunaban taking 6-38.

Old Elizabethans were reduced to 46-8 before a late rally took their score to 87 all out in the 33rd over. Winston Lewis took 5-24 as Old Hill ran out winners in the 33rd over.

**OLD ELIZABETHANS (18PTS) 299-2 DREW WITH OLD HILL (4PTS) 215-9**

The 4th XI, having won the toss at Old Elizabethans, invited the hosts to bat.

Richard Price (100 no) and Emile Martyr (114 no) were both dropped before reaching double figures and Old Elizabethans went on to amass 299-2 off 45 overs.

Ifzian Khan (58) and Ryan Andrews (33) were the leading Old Hill scorers, but with nine wickets down and 10 overs remaining, Keiron Daniels (29 no) helped to claim a creditable draw.

**OLD HILL (10PTS) 113-1 BEAT LYFE 110 BY 9 WKTS**

The Sunday XI hosted Lyfe in their Border League at Haden Hill. Batting first Lyfe lost two early wickets and despite a 55-run partnership between Webster (35) and Stanaway (38), Lyfe were all out for 110 in 25 overs.

Old Hill lost opener Richard Sydenham (1) in the second over but Nigel Davenport (68 no) joined Dan Cox (43 no) shared a century stand to see Old Hill home in 17.3 overs.

## Prince pitches in to open major Edgbaston revamp

The Duke of Edinburgh was in Birmingham to officially open the revamped £32 million Edgbaston Cricket Ground as part of a hat-trick of royal visits to the city.

Prince Philip was at Warwickshire County Cricket Club where he unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion and was given a tour of the new facilities.

The new-look cricket ground has been hailed as one of the best in the country following its revamp and benefits from a new pavilion, new floodlights and changing rooms, a 750-seater banqueting suite and fine-dining restaurant.

Work has taken 18 months to complete and with a capacity of 25,000, Warwickshire County Cricket Club's stadium is now the second biggest in the country – beaten only by Lord's, which can seat 28,000.

### Brilliant

The Duke arrived at the ground around 11.15am and was greeted by club chairman Norman Gascoigne and chief executive Colin Povey. He then met young members of cricket teams from the region.

Katie Rudd, coach at Walmley Cricket Club under 13s girls team, said: "It is great for the girls to be in this brilliant new stadium."

"They have all been really excited and a little bit nervous but it's a day they will remember for a long time."

Player Georgia Davis, aged 12, from Sutton Coldfield added: "I have never met royalty and I think he is very nice."

"Mr Gascoigne added: "This is a landmark day for us today. Completion of the redevelopment programme gives us incredible capacity, we're now the largest cricket venue outside of Lord's with world class spectator and media facilities."

"It's an acknowledgement and a tribute to the quality of cricket in Birmingham and the West Midlands."

"Edgbaston has always had a culture and reputation



Prince Philip meets players during his trip to the new-look Edgbaston

for fantastic cricket. Now we've gone a step beyond, we have facilities to match our reputation."

"I wrote to the Palace and explained what we are about: the importance of the scheme. We were delighted that he accepted our invitation."

Meanwhile the Duchess of Cornwall was at the Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston to present volunteers from the Wolverhampton Walking for Health scheme with the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, and the Prince of Wales was meeting military and civilian staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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www.dudleyzoo.org.uk

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From Halesowen route 244

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Every day from 10.00am Last admission 4.00pm (winter 3.00pm)

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www.sealife.co.uk

### Getting there:

From Halesowen route 9 to Birmingham city centre

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